

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-24 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 12, 18, and 24 being the independent claims.

Applicants have amended the specification to clarify the Cross-Reference to Related Applications information. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

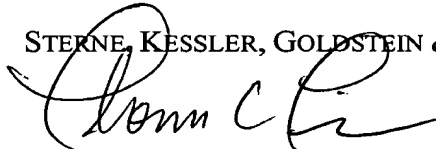
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Thomas C. Fiala
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,610

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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